

Applicant : Shimon Sakaguchi
Serial No. : 09/284,114
Filed : April 7, 1999
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13750-002001 / PH-425PCT-US

REMARKS

At the outset, the attorney of record wishes to thank Examiner Sorbello for her time and assistance in the prosecution of the present application, most notably the telephonic communications on January 2, 4 and 8th of this year.

Claims 10-19 are presently under consideration. The instant preliminary amendment amends claims 12 and 13. Support for the amendment to claim 12 drawn to an isolated mouse strain from BALB/c mice homozygous for developing rheumatoid arthritis can be found, *inter alia*, on page 6, lines 3-7. Claim 13 has been amended to place it in independent form. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

In addition to amending the claims, submitted herewith is a Rule 132 Declaration by Dr. Sakaguchi under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 in support of the Response filed January 9, 2002. In an effort to assist the Examiner in evaluating the claims, Applicant submits this declaration to further highlight the phenotypic differences between the claimed mouse strain and the parent BALB/c mouse strain, as well as present additional evidence of genotypic differences between the claimed mouse strain and parent BALB/c mouse strain.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

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Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. No fees are believed to be due; however,
please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2002


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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claims 12 and 13 have been amended as follows:

- 12. (Amended) An isolated mouse strain from BALB/C mice[, comprising]
homozygous for a trait of developing [natural onset of] rheumatoid arthritis.
13. (Amended) A mouse capable of developing rheumatoid arthritis and having
[which belongs to the isolated mouse strain of claim 12, and has] ATCC accession No.
FERM BP-7790. --